



Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook March 19 - 25, 2015

Temperatures:

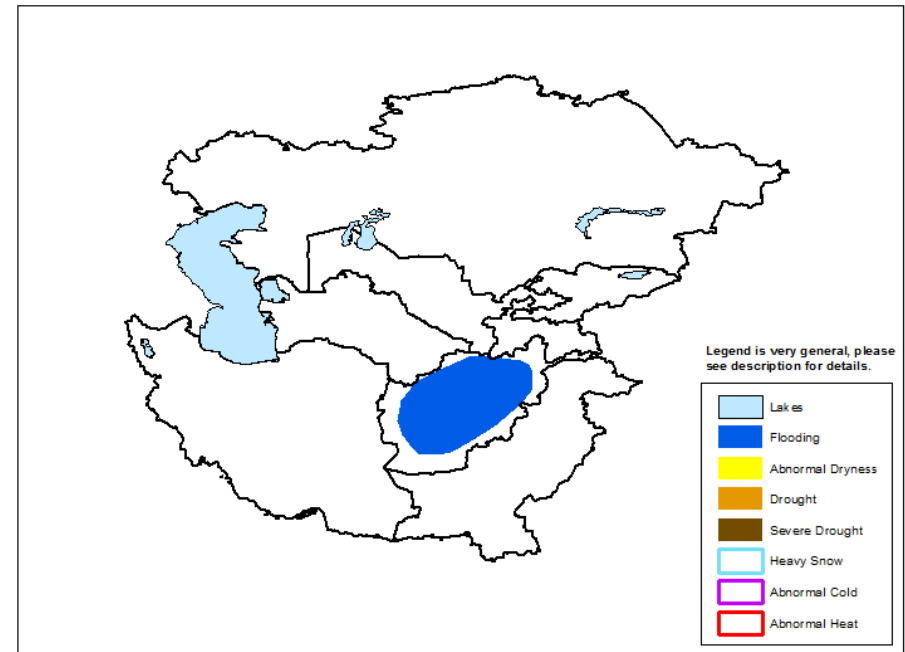
Temperatures averaged above-normal across Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan during the second week of March, while slightly below-normal temperatures prevailed across Afghanistan where widespread freezing temperatures were likely observed. During the next week, the GFS model indicates that maximum temperatures will average more than 6 degrees C above-normal with maximum temperatures in excess of 25 degrees C across the lower elevations of Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Precipitation

During the second week of March, widespread rain and high-elevation snow fell across much of the region with precipitation amounts generally less than 25 mm, liquid equivalent. Snow-water content, according to the USGS, is at or above-average across the northern and central river basins of Afghanistan.

During the next week, the GFS model indicates widespread precipitation with local amounts exceeding 25 mm. The warmer temperatures are expected to result in much of the precipitation falling as rain except at the highest elevations of northeast Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

The heavy snowfall since the beginning of February has elevated the potential for flooding this spring across Afghanistan. The predicted rainfall during late March coupled with rapid snowmelt due to above-normal temperatures is expected to cause flooding across parts of Afghanistan.



Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), and assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.